I CLAIM:

1.   A method of confirming proper receipt of e-mail, said method

2   comprising the steps of:

3   obtaining an e-mail file which is intended by a sending

4   party for transmission to a target e-mail address associated

5   with a target party;

6   electronically transmitting the e-mail file from a

7   first computer connected to a communications network and

8   associated with the sending party;

9   delivering the e-mail file to a recipient e-mail

10   address which is associated with a second computer connected

11   to the communications network;

12   detecting a designated access event triggered by an

13   accessing party and generally associated with e-mail

14   retrieval from the recipient e-mail address;

15   upon a detection of the designated access event

16   automatically executing the steps of:

17   providing notice of the delivered e-mail file to

18   the accessing party,

19   discovering recipient data generally associated

20   with the recipient e-mail address,

21   generating a confirmation of receipt notice

22   containing the discovered recipient data, and

23   electronically transmitting the confirmation of

24   receipt notice from the second computer to a return e-

25   mail address associated with the sending party; and

26   comparing the discovered recipient data contained in

27   the confirmation of receipt notice with intended delivery

28   information associated with the target party, whereby the

29   sending party may determine whether the e-mail file was

30   properly delivered.

2.   The method as in Claim 1,

          wherein the discovering step includes retrieving from

     the second computer a pre-recorded recipient data file

     containing pre-recorded recipient data.

3.   The method as in Claim 1,

          further comprising the steps of: obtaining accessing

3   party identity information from the accessing party as a

4   requisite condition for permitting access to the recipient

5   e-mail address, and recording the accessing party identity

6   information to an accessing party data file for resident

7   storage in the second computer, and

8   wherein the discovering step includes retrieving the

9   accessing party data file from the second computer, and the

10   step of comparing the discovered recipient data includes

11   determining whether the accessing party identity information

12   is equivalent to or different from the intended target

13   party, whereby the sending party may determine whether the

14   accessing party triggering the access event was in fact the

15   intended target party.

1   4.   The method as in Claim 1,

2   further comprising the steps of: obtaining accessing

3   party identity information from the accessing party as a

4   requisite condition for operating a remote user computer,

5   said remote user computer connected to the second computer

6   via the communications network and operable by the accessing

7   party to gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address,

8   and recording the accessing party identity information to an

9   accessing party data file for resident storage in the remote

10   user computer, and

11   wherein the discovering step includes retrieving the

12   accessing party data file from the remote user computer, and

13   the step of comparing the discovered recipient data includes

14   determining whether the accessing party identity information

15   is equivalent to or different from the intended target

16   party, whereby the sending party may determine whether the

17   accessing party triggering the access event was in fact the

18   intended target party.

1   5.   The method as in Claim 1,

1   wherein the discovering step includes electronically

2   tapping a remote connection between the second computer and

3   a remote user computer which is operable by the accessing

4   party to gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address

5   via the communications network, for obtaining remote access

6   information associated with the remote connection between

7   the second computer and the remote user computer.

1   6.   The method as in Claim 1,

2   further comprising the step of:

3   transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail

4   address an executable attachment file in conjunction with

5   the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a

6   first module for discovering the recipient data, a second

7   module for generating the confirmation of receipt notice,

8   and a third module for electronically transmitting the

9   confirmation of receipt notice, and

10   upon the detection of the designated access event,

11   automatically executing the first, second, and third modules

12   of the executable attachment file.

1   7.   The method as in Claim 6,

2   wherein the executable attachment file has fourth and

3   fifth modules transmitted and delivered therewith, the

4   fourth module for detecting the designated access event, and

5   the fifth module for providing notice of the delivered e-

6   mail file to the accessing party, and

7   further comprising the steps of:

8   automatically executing the fourth module upon delivery

9   of the attachment file to the recipient e-mail address, and

10   upon the detection of the designated access event,

11   automatically executing the fifth module of the executable

12   attachment file.

1   8.   The method as in Claim 1,

2   further comprising the step of determining, upon

3   delivery of the e-mail file to the recipient e-mail address,

4   whether the delivered e-mail file is of at least one

5   designated file-type requiring a confirmation of receipt

6   notice, and

7   wherein the detecting step occurs upon a determination

8   that the delivered e-mail file is of the at least one

9   designated file-type.

1   9.   A method of confirming proper receipt of e-mail, said method

2   comprising the steps of:

3   obtaining an e-mail file which is intended by a sending

4   party for transmission to a target e-mail address associated

5   with a target party;

6   electronically transmitting the e-mail file from a

7   first computer connected to a communications network and

8   associated with the sending party;

9   delivering the e-mail file to a recipient e-mail

10   address associated with a second computer connected to the

11   communications network;

12   detecting a designated access event triggered by an

13   accessing party and generally associated with e-mail

14   retrieval from the recipient e-mail address;

15   obtaining access event data of attendant conditions of

16   the designated access event upon a detection of the

17   designated access event;

18   upon obtaining the access event data, automatically

19   executing the steps of:

20   providing notice of the delivered e-mail file to

21   the accessing party,

22   generating a confirmation of receipt notice

23   containing the access event data, and

24   electronically transmitting the confirmation of

25   receipt notice from the second computer to a return e-

26   mail address associated with the sending party; and

27   comparing the access event data contained in the

28   confirmation of receipt notice with intended delivery

29   information associated with the target party, whereby the

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30   sending party may determine whether the e-mail file was

31   properly delivered.

10.   The method as in Claim 9,

              wherein the step of obtaining the access event data

        includes interactively requesting and receiving input from

        the accessing party.

1   11.   The method as in Claim 9,

2   further comprising the steps of: obtaining accessing

3   party identity information from the accessing party as a

4   requisite condition for permitting access to the recipient

5   e-mail address, and recording the accessing party identity

6   information to an accessing party data file for resident

7   storage in the second computer, and

8   wherein the step of obtaining access event data

9   includes retrieving the accessing party data file from the

10   second computer, and the step of comparing the access event

11   data includes determining whether the accessing party

12   identity information is equivalent to or different from the

13   intended target party, whereby the sending party may

14   determine whether the accessing party triggering the access

15   event was in fact the intended target party.

1   12.   The method as in Claim 9,

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2   further comprising the steps of: obtaining accessing

3   party identity information from the accessing party as a

4   requisite condition for operating a remote user computer,

5   said remote user computer connected to the second computer

6   via the communications network and operable by the accessing

7   party to gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address;

8   and recording the accessing party identity information to an

9   accessing party data file for resident storage in the remote

10   user computer, and

11   wherein the step of obtaining access event data

12   includes retrieving the accessing party data file from the

13   remote user computer, and the step of comparing the access

14   event data includes determining whether the accessing party

15   identity information is the same as or different from the

16   intended target party, whereby the sending party may

17   determine whether the accessing party triggering the access

18   event was in fact the intended target party.

1   13. The method as in Claim 9,

2   wherein the step of obtaining access event data

3   includes electronically tapping a remote connection between

4   the second computer and a remote user computer which is

5   operable by the accessing party to gain remote access to the

6   recipient e-mail address via the communications network, for

7   obtaining remote access information associated with the

8   remote connection between the second computer and the remote

9   user computer.

1   14.   The method as in Claim 9,

2   further comprising the steps of:

3   transmitting and delivering to the recipient e-mail

4   address an executable attachment file in conjunction with

5   the e-mail file, the executable attachment file having a

6   first module for obtaining the access event data, a second

7   module for generating the confirmation of receipt notice,

8   and a third module for electronically transmitting the

9   confirmation of receipt notice, and

10   upon the detection of the designated access event,

11   automatically executing the first module for obtaining the

12   access event data, and

13   upon obtaining the access event data, automatically

14   executing the second and third modules of the executable

15   attachment file.

1   15.   The method as in Claim 14,

2   wherein the executable attachment file has fourth and

3   fifth modules transmitted and delivered therewith, the

4   fourth module for detecting the designated access event, and

5   the fifth module for providing notice of the delivered e-

6   mail file to the accessing party, and

7   further comprising the steps of:

8   automatically executing the fourth module upon delivery

9   of the attachment file to the recipient e-mail address, and

10   upon obtaining the access event data, automatically

11   executing the fifth module of the executable attachment

12   file.

1   16. The method as in Claim 9,

2   further comprising the step of determining, upon

3   delivery of the e-mail file to the recipient e-mail address,

4   whether the delivered e-mail file is of at least one

5   designated file-type requiring a confirmation of receipt

6   notice, and

7   wherein the detecting step occurs upon a determination

8   that the delivered e-mail file is of the at least one

9   designated file-type.

1   17. A system for confirming proper receipt of e-mail transmitted

2   over a communications network, said system comprising:

3   an e-mail file which is intended by a sending party for

4   electronic transmission to a target e-mail address

5   associated with a target party;

6   a first computer connected to the communications

7   network and from which the sending party may electronically

8   transmit the e-mail file;

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9   a second computer connected to the communications

10   network and associated with a recipient e-mail address, the

11   second computer having a data storage location for storably

12   receiving the e-mail file thereon upon delivery to the

13   recipient e-mail address;

14   first executable software means for detecting a

15   designated access event which is triggered by an accessing

16   party and which is generally associated with e-mail

17   retrieval from the recipient e-mail address;

18   second executable software means for providing notice

19   of the delivered e-mail file to the accessing party;

20   third executable software means for discovering

21   recipient data associated with the recipient e-mail address;

22   fourth executable software means for generating a

23   confirmation of receipt notice containing the recipient

24   data; and

25   fifth executable software means for electronically

26   transmitting the confirmation of receipt notice from the

27   second computer to a return e-mail address associated with

28   the sending party,

29   wherein the second, third, fourth, and fifth executable

30   software means are configured for automatic execution upon

31   detection of the designated access event by the first

32   executable software means,

33   whereby a comparative examination of the confirmation

34   of receipt notice by the sending party permits the sending

35   party to determine whether the e-mail file was properly

36   delivered.

1   18.   The system as in Claim 17,

2   further comprising a pre-recorded recipient data file

3   resident in the second computer and containing the recipient

4   data, and

5   wherein the third executable software means for

6   discovering operates to retrieve the pre-recorded recipient

7   data file from the second computer.

1   19.   The system as in Claim 17,

2   further comprising a remote user computer which is

3   remotely connected to the second computer via the

4   communications network and from which the accessing party

5   may gain remote access to the recipient e-mail address, and

6   wherein the third executable software means operates to

7   discover remote access information associated with the

8   remote access of the recipient e-mail address from the

9   remote user computer.

1   20.   The system as in Claim 19,

2   further comprising accessing party identifier means

3   resident on the second computer for obtaining accessing

4   party identification information from the accessing party as

5   a requisite condition for permitting access to the recipient

6   e-mail address, said accessing party identifier means

7   subsequently recording the accessing party identity

8   information to an accessing party data file for resident

9   storage in the second computer, and

10   wherein the third executable software means for

11   discovering recipient data operates to retrieve the

12   accessing party data file from the second computer.

1   21.   The system as in Claim 19,

2   further comprising accessing party identifier means

3   resident on the remote user computer for obtaining accessing

4   party identification information from the accessing party as

5   a requisite condition for operating the remote user

6   computer, said accessing party identifier means subsequently

7   recording the accessing party identity information to an

8   accessing party data file for resident storage in the remote

9   user computer, and

10   wherein the third executable software means for

11   discovering recipient data operates to retrieve the

12   accessing party data file from the remote user computer.

1   22.   The system as in Claim 19,

2   wherein the third executable software means for

3   discovering recipient data operates to electronically tap

4   the remote connection between the second computer and the

5   remote user computer, for obtaining remote access

6   information associated with the remote connection between

7   the second computer and the remote user computer.

1   23.   The system as in Claim 17,

2   wherein the third, fourth, and fifth executable

3   software means are third, fourth, and fifth modules,

4   respectively, of an executable attachment file transmitted

5   and delivered in conjunction with the e-mail file.

1   24.   The system as in Claim 23,

2   wherein the first and second executable software means

3   are first and second modules, respectively, of the

4   executable attachment file, with said first module

5   automatically executing upon delivery of the executable

6   attachment file to the recipient e-mail address.

1   25.   The system as in Clam 17,

2   further comprising a sixth executable software means

3   for determining whether the delivered e-mail file is of at

4 least one designated field-type requiring a confirmation of

5 receipt notice, and

6   wherein the first executable software means is

7 automatically executed upon a determination that the

8 delivered e-mail file is of the at least one designated

9 file-type requiring a confirmation of receipt notice.